

Biography

Born and raised in Arlington, Washington, Rick Larsen is honored to represent in the U.S. House of Representatives Washington state’s Second Congressional District that includes parts of King and Snohomish counties, and all of Skagit, Whatcom, Island and San Juan counties.

Rick is serving his third term in Congress where he sits on three committees: the House Armed Services Committee, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and the Agriculture Committee.

His work on the House Armed Services Committee allows him to represent the needs of Naval Station Everett, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, and the military families and veterans who call Western Washington their home. On committee, he maintains a strong focus on electronic warfare, like that performed by the Prowlers stationed at NAS Whidbey. His work on the Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee gives him the opportunity to focus on national security issues and threats within the Asian Pacific Theater.

His work on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee gives him the opportunity to work on issues such as pipeline safety, U.S.-Canada border congestion, and transit solutions. His committee work and role as co-chair of Washington state’s 2010 Olympics Task Force, will help him prepare Washington to maximize the trade and tourism benefits the Olympics will bring the state, while also preparing the region for the accompanying security and traffic demands.

Rick is the first Member of Congress from Western Washington in over half a century to serve on the Agriculture Committee, where he provides a strong voice for local farmers.

Outside of his committee work, Rick serves as co-chair of the Congressional Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine where he serves as a congressional leader on meth issues. As a member of the Northern Border Caucus, he also works to bring attention and funding to the unique needs of our border communities and border security.

Rick’s priorities include strengthening our national security, providing for our veterans, and supporting local communities with their economic development efforts in order to help create and sustain good-paying jobs. He also works hard to ensure that we take care of the most vulnerable in our society such as homeless veterans, hungry children and families that need housing.

During his time in Congress, Larsen has received several awards and honors, including: the Everett Chamber of Commerce’s Service to Business Award; the Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber of Commerce Chairman’s Award for his efforts to support the Alcoa Intalco workers; the National Parks Conservation Association’s Friend of the National Parks; the Washington State Division of Aviation’s Aviation Star of the Year; the Northwest Straits Commission’s Friend of the Northwest Straits Conservation Initiative.

Rick first held public office as Snohomish County Councilman and was County Council Chair in 1999. Before serving on the County Council, Rick worked as the Director of Public Affairs for the Washington State Dental Association. Prior to that, he worked for the Port of Everett.

Rick and his wife, Tiia, are the proud parents of two sons, Robert (age 8) and Per (age 5), who represent the fifth generation to live in the Second District. Rick is one of eight kids. His father is a retired power line worker for the local public utility district, and his mother has been promoted to grandmother—thirteen times. Born and raised in Arlington, Washington, Rick attended public schools. He received his B.A. at Pacific Lutheran University and went on to earn a Master’s in Public Affairs from the University of Minnesota.